

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 6 are pending in the present application. With this Response, Applicants cancel claims 1, 2 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is introduced.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 – 5 are currently allowable.

OBJECTION TO DRAWING

FIG. 1 is objected to for failing to be labeled as “Prior Art”. Applicant proposes an associated revision to FIG.1 to address this objection as indicated in the attached drawing replacement pages, provided in both marked-up and clean copies. Applicant respectfully requests that the proposed revision be accepted, and that the objection be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS

Claim 6 is objected to as being inconsistent with a description provided in the specification at page 12, lines 21 – 35, and with FIG.4. Applicants cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer, reserving all rights to prosecute this claim at a later date as part of a divisional application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,687,358 to Rothenhofer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,772 to Hauris et al. Applicants cancel claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, reserving all rights to

prosecute one or more of these claims at a later date as part of a divisional application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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